THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The WPf based provisional inflation on January 27,2007 (last week of January) was 6.58 percent.

(b) The WPI based inflation rate for vegetables, milk and fruits on January 27, 2007 were 9.52 percent, 9.43 per cent and 15.11 percent respectively.

(c) to (e) Government and the Reserve Bank of India act in harmony and use fiscal and monetary policy for sustaining growth with macro economic stability. Reserve Bank of India has taken measures to reduce the liquidity in the system by increasing cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 25 basis points each on three occasions so far on December, 23, 2006, February 6,2007 and February 17,2007. CRR will be revised upwards by 25 basis points again on March 3, 2007. Repo rates were revised upwards four times in the current year so far by 25 basis points on each occasion to reach 7.5 per cent on January 31, 2007.

Funding for infrastructure sectors

*32. SHRI VIJAY J.DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced setting up a committee, headed by Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) Chairman to look into long term funding for infrastructure sector that require a massive $320 billion on investment by 2012;

(b) whether this committee was urged to submit a quick report;

(c) if so, by when the committee will submit its report; and

(d) whether the committee has recommended certain measures which require legislative changes for funding infrastructure sector?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A Committee under Mr. Deepak Parekh was formed on December 26,2006 to recommend measures to generate sufficient long term finance for India's infrastructure. The Committee was requested to submit an interim report within 6 weeks which it has done on February 8, 2007. The final report is expected by March 31, 2007.

The Committee has proposed several initiatives and some of them such as change in the company law that puts a restriction of less than 50 investors for an issue to qualify as a private placement; change in the definition of infrastructure; and change in Securities Contract Regulation Act to include pass through certificates under the definition of 'security' etc. may require legislative changes.

Development of Satkosia as Natural Tourist Circuit

*33. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop Satkosia in Orissa as a complete natural tourist circuit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a joint venture project with the Centre;

(d) whether a proposal has been sent to the Centre for approval; and

(e) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects. Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

A project proposal was received from the State Government for development of Satkosia under Destination Scheme for an amount of Rs. 500.00 lakh. However, on examination as per the existing Guidelines of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, it was found that the following documents had not been submitted: